

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

KENTUCKY UTILITIES COMPANY	)	
	)	
_____	)	CASE NO. 92-001
	)	
ALLEGED FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH	)	
COMMISSION REGULATION 807 KAR 5:041	)	

O R D E R

Kentucky Utilities Company ("KU"), a Kentucky corporation which engages in the distribution of electricity to the public for compensation for lights, heat, power, and other uses, is a utility subject to Commission jurisdiction. KRS 278.010.

KRS 278.280(2) directs the Commission to prescribe rules and regulations for the performance of services by utilities. Pursuant to this statutory directive, the Commission promulgated Commission Regulation 807 KAR 5:041, Section 3, which requires electric utilities to maintain their plant and facilities in accordance with the standards of the National Electrical Safety Code (1990 Edition).

Commission Staff has submitted to the Commission an Electrical Utility Accident Investigation Report dated November 22, 1991, appended hereto, which alleges:

1. On October 7, 1991, Kevin Dixon, a KU employee, was injured while performing preventive maintenance on circuit breakers at KU's Ghent Generating Station, in Ghent, Kentucky. He

suffered serious burns when he came into contact with an energized circuit breaker. At the time of the accident, Dixon was not wearing the rubber gloves provided to him, nor had he tested or grounded the equipment.

2. KU's safety rules require all employees to use rubber gloves when working near energized equipment and to test and ground energized equipment before considering them de-energized.

3. Dixon's failure to wear rubber gloves while working near energized equipment is a violation of National Electrical Safety Code Section 42 (420H) which requires that employees use the personal protective equipment and devices provided for work.

4. Dixon's failure to test and ground the energized equipment before repairing it is a violation of National Electrical Safety Code Section 42 (420D) which requires employees to perform preliminary inspections or tests to determine existing conditions before working on energized lines.

5. At the time of the accident, Dixon was a KU employee and acting within the scope of his employment.

6. As a result of Dixon's failures, KU is in probable violation of Commission Regulation 807 KAR 5:041, Section 3(1).

The Commission, on its own motion, HEREBY ORDERS that:

1. KU shall submit to the Commission within 20 days of the date of this Order a written response to the allegations contained in the Electrical Utility Accident Investigation Report.

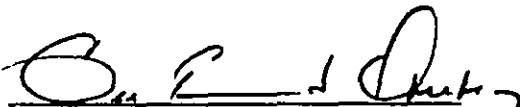
2. KU shall appear on February 28, 1992 at 10:00 a.m., Eastern Standard Time, in Hearing Room 1 of the Commission's offices at 730 Schenkel Lane, Frankfort, Kentucky, for the

purposes of presenting evidence concerning the incident which is the subject of the Electrical Utility Accident Investigation Report, specifically the alleged violations of Commission Regulation 807 KAR 5:041, Section 3, and of showing cause, if any it can, why it should not be subjected to the penalties of KRS 278.990 for its alleged failure to comply with Commission Regulation 807 KAR 5:041, Section 3.

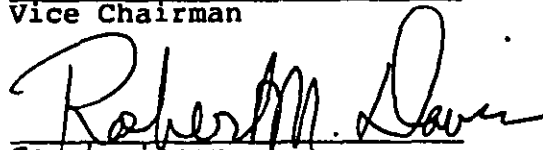
3. The Electrical Utility Accident Investigation Report dated November 22, 1991 is hereby made a part of the record of this case.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 8th day of January, 1992.


PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

  
Chairman

  
Vice Chairman

  
Commissioner

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director

APPENDIX

APPENDIX TO AN ORDER OF THE KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE  
COMMISSION IN CASE NO. 92-001 DATED 1/08/92

ELECTRIC UTILITY ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION

DATE OF THIS REPORT: November 22, 1991 SUBMITTED BY: Kyle Willard

NAME OF UTILITY: Kentucky Utilities Company

ACCIDENT REPORTED BY: Carl Wise

DATE & TIME ACCIDENT OCCURRED: October 7, 1991 7:35 A.M.

DATE & TIME UTILITY LEARNED OF ACCIDENT: Carl Wise advised he was  
made aware of the accident on October 11, 1991 4:00 P.M.

DATE & TIME ACCIDENT REPORTED: October 11, 1991 4:05 P.M.

DATE OF ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION: October 15, 1991

DATE SUMMARY WRITTEN REPORT WAS RECEIVED FROM UTILITY: October 15,  
1991

PERSONS ASSISTING IN THE INVESTIGATION: James Brackney, Larry Byrd,  
and Rick Moore of Kentucky Utilities Co.

VICTIM(S):

1. NAME: Kevin Dixon SEX: M AGE: 30

FATAL: NO NAME OF EMPLOYER: Kentucky Utilities Co.

INJURIES: Flash burn to face and neck

2. NAME: SEX: AGE:

FATAL: NAME OF EMPLOYER:

INJURIES:

3. NAME: SEX: AGE:

FATAL: NAME OF EMPLOYER:

INJURIES:

ELECTRICAL UTILITY ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION (Continued)

LOCATION OF ACCIDENT SITE: US 42 Ghent Generating Station, Ghent, Kentucky.

DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT: Kevin Dixon was performing routine preventive maintenance which involved systematically tightening screws which hold connections of the breakers located throughout the plant. Mr. Dixon was not wearing rubber gloves. While checking for loose contacts on the breakers for the Boiler Room 1F Motor Control Center ("MCC"), Mr. Dixon mistakenly attempted to tighten, with a screwdriver, the energized leads at the top of one breaker and inadvertently made contact between the grounded breaker casing and the 480 volt energized lead. This contact created an electrical flash resulting in burns to Mr. Dixon's face and neck.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION: Rick Moore and Larry Byrd of Kentucky Utilities Company, Kentucky Utilities Company Summary Written Report, and an on-site investigation.

PROBABLE VIOLATIONS OF COMMISSION REGULATIONS: Kevin Dixon's failure to wear rubber gloves while working near energized equipment is a probable violation of National Electric Safety Code (NESC) Section 420H. His failure to test and ground the energized equipment before repairing it is a probable violation of NESC Section 420D. Dixon was acting in the scope of his employment at the time of the accident. His actions are therefore properly imputed to Kentucky Utilities Company. Kentucky Utilities Company is in probable violation of 807 KAR 5:041, Section 3.

ELECTRICAL UTILITY ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION (Continued)

RECOMMENDATIONS: Due to Kentucky Utilities Company's probable violation of 807 KAR 5:041, Section 3, it is recommended that the Commission consider action in accordance with KRS 278.990. According to plant personnel, clearance to de-energize the entire MCC could have been attained. With the MCC de-energized, the chances of electrical contact during this type of preventive maintenance would be minimized. It is therefore further recommended that Kentucky Utilities Company require that any MCC, or similar unit, be completely de-energized before this type of preventive maintenance is performed.

CORRECTIVE ACTION: Corrective action has been recommended.

Submitted by: 

Kyle Willard, Engineer  
Communications and  
Electric Branch

# KENTUCKY UTILITIES COMPANY

ONE QUALITY STREET  
LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY  
40507  
TELEPHONE 606-253-2100

October 11, 1991

**RECEIVED**

OCT 15 1991

DIVISION OF UTILITY  
ENGINEERING & SERVICES

Mr. Wayne Bates  
Public Service Commission  
730 Schenkel Lane  
P.O. Box 615  
Frankfort, KY 40802

Dear Wayne:

SUBJECT: G. KEVIN DIXON  
DOA: 10/07/91

Enclosed is a copy of a Report of Accident-Employee where Mr. Dixon was checking for loose connections with a screwdriver and made contact between ground and an energized lead at the top of one breaker resulting in an electrical flash to face and neck.

If you need additional information please advise.

Sincerely,



James A. Brackney, P.E.  
Director, Insurance & Claims

JAB/ka

Enclosure

cc: R. M. Hewett  
W. N. English

**E****REPORT OF ACCIDENT EMPLOYEE**

KU 24-11 REV 10-86

Kentucky Utilities Company

Ghent Station - P. O. Box 338

Ghent

KY

41045

Date of This Report 10-7-91

OCT 11 1991

Location at Which  
Injured Employee

Is Regularly Employed

Ghent Generating Station

Accident Number

**WHO WAS  
INJURED?**

Name G. Kevin Dixon Sex M Age 30 Wage 15.06 Per (Hour)  
Address Rt. 2 - Box 261A Milton KY 40045  
Street City State Zip  
Area Code and Telephone Number (502)268-3449 Married Yes  
Employee Birthday 6-16-61 No. of children under 16 years 0 No. of Dependents 1  
List names, birthdates, relationship Jean Marie, 8-18-60, wife  
Occupation MTC-Electrical Dept. Years employed by company 2 yrs. On present job SAME  
Social Security No. 403-86-5741 Department Electrical 11 mo.

**TIME AND  
PLACE OF  
INJURY**

Date 10-7-91 Hour 0735 A.M. Did accident occur on employer's premises ☒ Yes ☐ No  
Place of accident US 42 - Ghent Generating Station Ghent KY  
Street City State

**WITNESSES  
TO THE  
INJURY**

Name	Address
1. <u>W. Ed Cundiff</u>	<u>Crestwood, KY</u>
2. <u>Pat O'Connor</u>	<u>Ghent, KY</u>

**NATURE AND  
EXTENT OF  
INJURY  
(Include All  
Injuries)**

Parts of Body injured and nature of injuries Face and neck, flash burn from electrical arc  
Probable Length of Disability pending Date of first treatment by Doctor 10-7-91  
Emergency room or  
Attending Physician CCMH - Dr. Miller Address Carrollton, KY  
Date Hospitalized N/A Name and Address of hospital

**ACCIDENT**

Identify object, substance or machine which directly injured employee Blr. room motor control center 1F.  
What was employee doing when injured? (Be specific) Employee was performing a preventive maintenance routine to check for loose connections.  
How did accident or exposure occur? (Tell what happened and how it happened) While doing P.M.'s on 1F MCC, the MCC could not be totally de-energized, leaving the top leads energized on breakers along with 2 outage welding feeds.  
Describe events which resulted in injury While checking for loose connections with a screw-driver, Kevin made contact between ground and an energized lead at the top of one breaker resulting in an electrical flash.

Employee's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Supervisor's Signature [Signature] WUM LEB Date 10/9/91  
Report Approved By [Signature] Date 10/9/91  
(Dist. Mgr. or Dept. Head)

P. S. C.  
ACCIDENT AND TROUBLE REPORT FORM

TODAY'S DATE October 11, 1991 TIME 4:05 pmCOMPANY Kentucky Utilities CompanyPERSON REPORTING INCIDENT: NAME: Carl Wise (at home (502) 863-3477)TITLE: Insurance and Claims

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NO: (606) 255-2100

ACCIDENT DESCRIPTION: In attempting to <sup>lighten a</sup> de-energize arc breaker, the victim created an arc resulting in a flash.

VICTIMS NAMES: Kevin Dixon SEX M AGE 30 DEATH \_\_\_\_\_ INJURY ☒

SEX \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_ DEATH \_\_\_\_\_ INJURY \_\_\_\_\_

SEX \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_ DEATH \_\_\_\_\_ INJURY \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION OF ACCIDENT: Shent Generator PlantShent, KyTIME OF OCCURRENCE: October 7, 1991 @ 7:35 a.m.

TROUBLE DESCRIPTION: \_\_\_\_\_

TIME OF OCCURRENCE: \_\_\_\_\_

TIME OF RESUMPTION OF NORMAL SERVICE: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS AFFECTED: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNED Kyle B. WillardDATE October 11, 1991

*Attempting to call John Land, Oct. 11, 4:20 pm. (No answer)  
Since it has already been 4 days since accident occurred, no fate  
will wait until Monday, Oct 14, for an investigation.*